

Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/740,908	PARKER, KATHRYN L.
	Examiner Chun Cao	Art Unit 2115

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. This communication is responsive to amendment filed on 9/7/04.
2. The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-8, 10-17 and 19-21.
3. The drawings filed on 19 December 2000 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All
 - b) Some*
 - c) None
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) hereto or 2) to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date 11/18/04.
7. Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. Other _____.

CHUN CAO

DETAILED ACTION

1. This action is in response to amendment received on 10/29/04. Claims 1-27 are pending.

Allowable Subject Matter

2. Claims 1-8, 10-17 and 19-21 are allowed.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

3. An Examiner's Amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 C.F.R. § 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the Issue Fee.
4. Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Timothy B. Scull (Reg. No. 42,137) on 11/18/2004.
5. The application has been amended as follows:

Please amend the claims 1, 3, 6, 7, 9-11, 15, 16 and 18 as follows:

Claim 1. (Currently Amended) A method of locking user input elements on a small computer device, the method comprising:

receiving an internally generated locking signal, wherein the small computer device internally generates the locking signal;

setting a locked flag to indicate the user input elements are locked;

placing the small computer device in sleep mode after a predetermined period of time;

awaking the small computer device from sleep mode in response to a reminder notification from a calendar-type application; and

ignoring input signals when the locked flag is set to allow the device to return to sleep mode following a predetermined period of time.

Claim 3. (Currently Amended) A method as defined in claim 2 wherein button presses create the input signals and wherein the act of determining whether input signals relate to an unlock signal comprises:

determining whether the button presses occur within a second predetermined time period.

Claim 6. (Currently Amended) A method as defined in claim 5 wherein the predetermined time interval relates to an automatic shutoff/sleep mode time interval, the automatic shutoff/sleep mode time interval being the same as the predetermined period of time.

Claim 7. (Currently Amended) A method as defined in claim 1, wherein the internally generated locking signal is generated by the calendar-type application program in response to a predetermined event.

Claim 9. (Canceled)

Claim 10. (Currently Amended) A small computer system comprising:

user interface input elements;
a processing unit for recognizing user interface input signals;
a timer used to automatically place the small computer system in sleep mode after a predetermined period of time;

a calendar-type application program that provides reminder notifications to the user and wherein the small computer system awakes from sleep mode when a reminder occurs during sleep mode;

a locking application for locking the user interface elements, wherein the processing unit ignores user interface input signals when the user interface elements are locked and wherein the locking application receives an internally generated lock signal, wherein the small computer system internally generates the lock signal, and wherein the locking application further ignores input signals to allow the device to return to sleep mode following a predetermined period of time.

Claim 11. (Currently Amended) A computer program product readable by a small computer device and encoding instructions for executing a computer process for notifying a user of notification events, the process comprising:

receiving an internally generated locking signal, wherein the small computer device internally generates the locking signal;
setting a locked flag to indicate the user input elements are locked;
placing the small computer device in sleep mode after a predetermined period of time;

awaking the small computer device from sleep mode in response to a reminder notification from a calendar-type application; and
ignoring input signals when the locked flag is set to allow the device to return to sleep mode following a predetermined period of time.

Claim 15. (Currently Amended) A computer program product as defined in claim 14 wherein the predetermined time interval relates to an automatic shutoff/sleep mode time interval, the automatic shutoff/sleep mode time interval being the same as the predetermined period of time.

Claim 16. (Currently Amended) A computer program product as defined in claim 15, wherein the internally generated locking signal is generated by the calendar-type application program in response to a predetermined event.

Claim 18. (Canceled)

6. Pursuant to MPEP 606.01, the title has been changed to read:

-- METHOD FOR LOCKING USER INPUT ELEMENTS FOR A SMALL COMPUTER DEVICE BY INGNORING INPUT SIGNALS IF A LOCKING SIGNAL IS GENERATED BY A CANLENDAR-TYPE APPLICATION PROGRAM--

REASON FOR ALLOWANCE

7. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The prior art(s) teach(es):

Kawakura, US patent no. 5,973,676, teaches of a method of locking user input elements on a small computer device, setting a locked flag to indicate the user input elements are locked, ignoring input signals when the locked flag is set.

However the prior art of records do not teach or suggest, individually or in combination neither placing the small computer device in sleep mode after a predetermined period of time; awaking the small computer device from sleep mode in

response to a reminder notification from a calendar-type application; and ignoring input signals when the locked flag is set to allow the device to return to sleep mode following a predetermined period of time. .

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Chun Cao whose telephone number is 571-272-3664. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 7:30 am-4:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Thomas C. Lee can be reached on 571-272-3667. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is 571-272-2100.

Art Unit: 2115

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Chun Cao

Nov. 18, 2004